



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

September 21, 2011

### Ordinance

**Proposed No.** 2011-0327.2

**Sponsors** Lambert

1                   AN ORDINANCE prohibiting certain door-to-door  
2                   solicitations; adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 12 and  
3                   prescribing penalties.

4                   **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 5                   1. Currently, property owners and residents in unincorporated King  
6                   County who post "No Solicitation" or "No Trespassing" signs have no  
7                   effective way of enforcing this request because no county ordinance  
8                   restricts the activities of solicitors.
- 9                   2. Law enforcement and neighborhood groups report that solicitors using  
10                  aggressive tactics have intimidated and harassed residents and sometimes  
11                  created fear in neighborhoods, particularly among immigrant cultures and  
12                  retirement communities where residents might be more vulnerable.
- 13                  3. King County law enforcement agencies have identified some door-to-  
14                  door solicitors who appear to have used their access to private property as  
15                  an opportunity to engage in criminal activity. For example, police reports  
16                  indicate that individuals apparently engaged in door-to-door solicitation  
17                  use their access to determine if a residence is occupied before burglarizing  
18                  a home.

19           4. Police reports in recent years also indicate that door-to-door solicitation  
20           has been connected to a growing number of complaints and incidents in  
21           unincorporated King County of criminal activity such as scams collecting  
22           money for products or services that are not delivered.

23           5. Residences in the unincorporated areas are more vulnerable to criminal  
24           activity connected to door-to-door solicitation because low-density  
25           neighborhoods have fewer witnesses to criminal activity.

26           6. For residents posting "No Solicitation" or "No Trespassing" signs on  
27           their property, this ordinance will provide law enforcement officers with a  
28           new tool to respond to and address complaints, with the intent of deterring  
29           criminal activities and assisting residents in protecting themselves and  
30           their property.

31           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

32           SECTION 1. Sections 2 through 5 of this ordinance should constitute a new  
33           chapter in K.C.C. Title 12.

34           NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. If a person has not been requested or invited by  
35           the occupant, the person shall not enter or remain upon any private premises for the  
36           purpose of contacting the occupant to solicit the immediate or future purchase or sale of  
37           goods, services or any other thing of value if a sign stating "No Solicitation" or "No  
38           Trespassing" is posted at or near the entrance to the premises.

39           NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. The following are exempted from the  
40           prohibitions in section 2 of this ordinance

41           A. The leaving at private premises printed materials advertising products or  
42 services;

43           B. Solicitations by organizations that are charitable, nonprofit, religious or  
44 political in nature, or by government agencies; and

45           C. Solicitations by farmers exempted under chapter 36.71.090 RCW.

46           NEW SECTION. SECTION 4. The sheriff shall enforce this ordinance, through  
47 means including but not limited to K.C.C. Title 23.

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None